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OLL 84-1746

15 April 84

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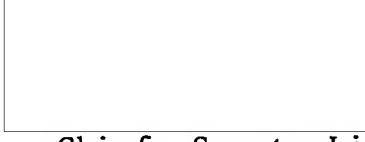
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Line of Succession to SSCI Vice-Chairmanship.

I called John Elliff at home at noon this date after SSCI Vice-Chairman Moynihan announced his resignation on national TV circa 11:30 a.m. this morning. Elliff, as SSCI designee for Democratic Senator Huddleston who was next senior after Moynihan, might fall heir to the minority staff director job.

Elliff asserted that Senator Huddleston would not be interested in the SSCI Vice-Chairmanship as he already is ranking minority member on the Senate Agriculture Committee, far preferring that for electoral advantage with his Kentucky constituents. As for the next Democratic senator in line, Senate Biden, Elliff opined that Biden definitely would not want it either as he is the ranking minority member on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Inouye would be next in line but Elliff was certain he would not accept it as he already had served as SSCI Chairman and wishes to terminate his SSCI membership at the end of this Congress. That would bring Senator Pat Leahy to the prime candidate spot and he, of course, is eager to have the post. His designee, Eric Newsome, would then become the leading candidate for Minority Staff Director.

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Chief, Senate Liaison

cc: D/OLL
 C/LL
 SL Chrono

16 April postscript: All News Radio at 8:12 a.m. carried an interview with Senator Leahy in which he said he had called Senator Moynihan asking him not to resign his post. In any event, said Leahy, Moynihan does not intend to give up his membership on the SSCI.

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